

From: RABaehr@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:04pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Dear sirs: I would hope that the proposed settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice and the 9 states that signed on will be approved. There was never any evidence of harm to consumers from Microsoft's behavior. The litigation was funded and promoted by Microsoft's competitors- Sun, Oracle, and AOL, among others. I hold stock in stock in several of these companies, as well as Microsoft, and have been upset that this is how these companies chose to compete with Microsoft- through the courts, rather than the marketplace. It is not the government's role to reward whiny competitors. Microsoft is certainly an aggressive competitor, and the terms of the proposed settlement suggest that the company's behavior needs to be monitored given its share of the operating system market. But expanding the capabilities of a software product is in consumers' interest. It is far easier , more efficient, and much cheaper for consumers to buy a broadened Windows, than many pieces of far more expensive software. Competition exists for Windows. Linux was not even a factor when this suit was framed, but now it is growing in importance. Sun's Java also offers a way to bypass Windows, as do internet only computers. This is a rapidly changing dynamic market. It doesn't need the heavy regulatory hand of government to reorder the pieces. Richard Baehr, Chicago, Il. .